Mighty metaphors: answers

What your child practised: spotting metaphors (saying one thing is another, with no like or as), telling them apart from similes and plain true sentences, and explaining what they suggest.

Page 1 · Warm up

The sea was a sheet of glass. Ava's laugh was a bubbling stream. The stars were tiny lamps. The baby's skin was velvet.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check the metaphor is the simile with like or as taken out, and that there's a reason for "which is stronger".

Page 2 · A. S, M or L

1. **M** · 2. **L** · 3. **S** · 4. **M** · 5. **L** · 6. **M**
2 and 5 use "is" but are simply true, so they're literal.

Page 3 · B. Match

Words were knives → **hurtful**
A night owl → **stays up late**
Road was a ribbon → **long, thin and curvy**
Playground was an oven → **very hot**

Page 3 · C. Write a metaphor

Answers will vary, e.g. **The thunderstorm was an angry giant stamping across the sky. The morning was a freezer.** Check it says the thing **is** something else, with no like or as.

Page 3 · D. Sam's sentence

It's a **simile**, because it uses "like". As a metaphor: **The sun was a gold coin.**

Page 3 · Challenge

No. A Labrador is a real kind of dog, so the sentence is simply **true**: it's literal. A metaphor joins two different things that can't really be the same, like "My dog is a hoover at dinner time."

Watch out for

- **Mixing up metaphors and similes.** Look for like or as: if it's there, it's a simile; if it says something **is** or **was** something else, it's a metaphor.
- **Reading metaphors literally** ("the classroom was a zoo" means real animals). Ask, "What is the writer really telling us?"
- **Thinking any "is" or "was" makes a metaphor**, like "the car is red". Ask, "Could this really be true?"

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Family metaphors:** describe each person at home in a kind metaphor ("Dad is a walking map").
- **Switch it:** one of you says a simile; the other turns it into a metaphor as fast as they can.
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Personification: giving things human actions and feelings.